

Northampton County S.P.C.A.



Humane Law Enforcement

EMERGENCY CALL GUIDELINES

1. Remember these are just what they are called – Guidelines – There is no way to cover every possible situation in a preplan. Much discretion is involved in handling emergencies.
2. We only respond to emergency situations involving sick or injured animals.
 - A. Owned Animals
 - 1) Owned animals are the responsibility of the owner.
 - 2) If the owner is incapacitated (auto accident, house fire, etc.)
 - a) handle the situation and care for the animal as appropriate.
 - b) obtain personal information for the owner (name, address, phone)
 - 3) If the owner refuses to treat the animal.
 - a) minor injuries- obtain information of owner for referral to Humane Officer for follow-up.
 - b) life-threatening injuries- seize the animal for treatment or euthanasia at veterinarian advice. AND obtain owner info. for prosecution by Humane Officer. If owner is openly hostile and seizure is merited, do not hesitate to call for immediate police assistance.
 - B. Animals believed to be owned. (collar but no tags, well groomed, nails trimmed, etc.)
 - 1) All due caution must be exercised in these situations. Your judgment is crucial
 - 2) We would prefer to pay a vet bill than to explain to a distraught owner why we allowed their animal to be euthanized, however if an animal is in very poor condition and deemed to be beyond helping, euthanasia is an option.
 - C. Stray animals
 - 1) Minor injury or illness - should be brought to shelter and placed in night drop for evaluation during normal operating hours.
 - 2) Serious injury or illness – each situation must be evaluated individually using your own best judgment while considering the following *guidelines*.
 - a) Severity of injury or illness
 - b) Veterinarian recommendation.
 - c) Animal's adoptability if it recovers
 - d) Amount of time and effort required during recovery/rehab period.
 - e) Animal's perceived will to live

f) Cost of treatment

3) Keep in mind, the above list is a guideline and not meant to be all-inclusive. It is ultimately the responding agent's decision on if and to what extent to treat.

4) Euthanasia Protocol for call-out duties.

a) No employee shall perform euthanasia unless properly trained and approved to do so.

- if euthanasia is warranted and employee is incapable, the agent will immediately transport the animal to the nearest approved veterinary facility.

b) Euthanasia on-scene is strongly discouraged

- If the decision to euthanize is made, the agent should tranquilize the animal to alleviate suffering and transport to SPCA or vet. as appropriate.

5) Veterinary utilization.

- A list of approved veterinary centers with phone numbers will be maintained and kept with the call-out book.

- If veterinary treatment is necessary and payment for services is required at time of check-in (Valley Central) call Dan Roman and he will respond with payment.

3. We **DO NOT** respond to pick up deceased animals. Refer people to their municipal public works dept.

4. We **DO NOT** handle wildlife. Refer to Game Commission or wildlife rehab. facility.

5. Police requests for assistance.

- All police assist requests will be considered whether they meet the sick/injured protocol or not.

- Give whatever help is reasonable and practical. Respond if absolutely necessary, or advise them on how they can control the situation on their own. Remember police do not have animal handling training- usually if you tell them how to handle a situation they will be willing to try. If they give you a hard time refer them to the Humane Officer during business hours.

6. Remember that when you are in the field, you **ARE** the Northampton County SPCA. Conduct yourself accordingly.

7. Vehicle

A. Refuel vehicle at ½ tank. We do not want to delay a response because we have to refuel.

B. Replace any equipment used. If you do not know where to find replacements, leave a note with the vehicle log so the next person using it knows the equipment is not there.